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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

God of power and providence, we begin this day of work in this Senate with the assurance that You will be with us, You will never leave us or forsake us, and we remember Your assurance to Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage."

You have chosen to be our God and elected us to be Your servants. You are the Sovereign Lord of this Nation and have destined us to be a land of righteousness, justice, and freedom. Now Your glory fills this historic Chamber.

Through Your grace, You never give up on us. With Your judgment, You hold us accountable to the absolutes of Your Ten Commandments. In Your mercy, You forgive us when we fail. By Your spirit, You give us strength and courage.

You also call us to maintain unity in the midst of diversity of differing solutions to the problems that we must address together. So, today, guide us in our discussion of the issues of the Budget Reconciliation Act and lead us to solutions that maintain our oneness. When the debate is ended and the votes are counted, enable us to press on to the work ahead with unity. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I do not believe that the bill has been laid down yet this morning.

I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed as in morning business for no more than 5 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BRIDGE CONNECTING KENTUCKY AND INDIANA

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, in 1987, a study was made of a major bridge connecting my State of Kentucky and the State of Indiana. It was determined—that this was on a major highway—that the bridge's life would be no more than 15 years as it related to the ability to carry major loads. At that time, Gov. Wallace Wilkinson decided that he would do everything he could to replace that bridge, and \$10 million of Kentucky money was put up front.

To make a long story short, the people of that area approached then Congressman William H. Natcher, who was on the Appropriations Committee in the House, and was chairman a little bit later of the Appropriations Committee in the House. And after much study and discussion, in order to speed up the ability to have the funds as it related to that particular bridge, it was decided that it should become a demonstration project. Otherwise, it could have been delayed for a long, long time. The bridge was then designated, through Congressman Natcher's effort, as a demonstration project, and the construction started through the design, and almost 7 miles of road now has been built. That road has been built up to the river bank. The approach has been built on the Indiana side. And two piers have been built in the middle of the Ohio River.

Mr. President, Congressman Natcher was an unusual individual. Using his influence in the Appropriations Committee, he could have funded this

bridge up front, some \$80 million, the State paying the balance. But instead of doing that, Congressman Natcher would only take what was necessary for that one 12-month period, leaving the balance of the money then for his colleagues on the committee to use as they saw necessary.

Unfortunately, the death of Congressman Natcher eliminated a powerful voice and one who could be depended upon to fund the bridge. After the demonstration projects were eliminated on the House side and on the Senate side, Congressman Natcher was able to get some money in the bill as it related to appropriations and directed a line item for this particular bridge. After Congressman Natcher's untimely and unfortunate death, no funds were included on the House side as it related to the bridge.

I worked with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee here in the Senate. We were able to make a modest contribution to the construction.

Now we have a budget going through the House and Senate with not one thin dime in there for that bridge.

As I said, there has been a lot of work done, four lanes now, for 7 miles on the Kentucky side, right up to the river bank. On the other side, the approach has been constructed by the State of Indiana. Two piers stick out of the Ohio River. We say, no, we are not going to finish or complete that bridge, with \$58 million already expended.

I have an amendment I wanted to put on reconciliation to fund the bridge because it is a very necessary bridge because we are getting close to the day when the present bridge will not be able to carry traffic. That means trucks will have to go at least 100 miles out of their way in order to make deliveries in order to serve our area.

It is very important to the economic development of both the northern part of western Kentucky and the southern

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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